

**JOINT MEETING BETWEEN
DERBY BOARD OF ALDERMEN
AND
DERBY BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT AND TAXATION**

DERBY CITY HALL – January 23, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The Honorable Mayor Anthony Staffieri called the Joint Meeting between the Board of Aldermen and the Board of Apportionment & Taxation to order at 7:03 p.m. All rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call

Board of Aldermen

Present: Kenneth Hughes, Ron Sill, Anthony Szewczyk, Beverly Moran, James Benanto, Joseph Bomba, Dennis Devonshuk, Matthew DeBarbieri, Scott Boulton

Board of Apportionment & Taxation

Present: Henry J. Domurad, Jr., Carolyn Duhaime, Martin C. Martino, Christopher Carloni, Robert J. Scarduzio, Jr., Robert Bell, Frank E. Lazowski, Sr.

Absent: Anthony DeFala, Jr. and Robert Cerritelli.

PUBLIC PORTION

Jeff Stadt – 38 Laurel Ave., Derby. Read the following into the record:

As a concerned taxpayer and a parent of school aged children, I am trying to be as flexible as possible. But I find all is not as clear as it is put forward. I am happy that the Board of Aldermen wisely did not vote last month on the Middle School proposal. I am not happy of the info needed for a vote was not clear. Why is this? We all need to work together, not sit and say it is up to someone else to fact find. By trying to listen at the Board of Ed meetings I find that some facts are not clear. Is this why we can't get a vote?

We all know that the learning environment is very important to learning. We also know that if you have a good educational system, it should be a draw for more people to live here. Knowing that taxes will normally go up or down, we all are planning on Derby being the up and coming place to live and work, I can hope that with the downtown project that not only will we be building our community, we should also be building a new tax base. Maybe taxes will not go up for a few years.

So I ask you about the new school project. There are some aspects that need to be put into perspective. (1) Redistricting is being proposed by the Board of Ed. There are costs factors that have not been considered (a) the costs of more busses, (b) the cost of the new classrooms to be added to Bradley School, (c) the proposal of a 6, 7, and 8th grade free standing middle school and (d) the Superintendent of Schools stated at the January 18th BOE meeting that portable classrooms are needed now at DHS.

Ok let's look at the facts.

Redistricting is proposed and a start date of the 07 and 08 school year is being looked at. The new classrooms on Bradley School will not be built until 2009-2010. Dr. Robinson has stated that redistricting does not work without the classrooms. Approximate cost \$1 million. Busing has been estimated for redistricting at approximately \$75,000.00 per year at this years rate. If you build a 7 and 8th grade addition now with the thought of an addition in about 10 years, the cost of the extra busses will be approximately \$1 million. The portable classrooms for the high school will have an approximate cost of \$1 million.

If you were to build the free standing 6, 7 and 8th grade middle school now you will get a reimbursement from the state of \$.67 on the dollar. If you add on later, what do you get for the reimbursement? The cost of the 6th grade now will save approximately \$3 million dollars now and the extra money it cost to build it now will be reimbursed. If you build the 6th grade now you will not need to add to Bradley School.

Also, the fact that the BOE used Ansonia as an example for redistricting has shown me that it didn't work. The test scores are still down. I have looked at the estimated times for school to start and I find that if you are a family that both parents need to work or a single parent that is the provider, you will have a problem if you have a child in each school. The start time for one school is 8:00 am and the start time for the other is 9:30 am that means you cannot go to work until 10:00 am. At the end of the day one school will get out at 2:30 pm and the other at 3:45 pm so you can only work until 2:00 pm. Right now we have a choice where to send our children no matter where we live, so it can work to our advantage if you have a choice for a job to fit in a time schedule.

It was pointed out to Mr. Stadt that redistricting is not being planned for the 2007-2008 school year. After careful consideration it was determined that more time and planning would be needed and a possible 2008-2009 school year may bring about redistricting. Also there was note made that parents in most cases do not have the option to send their children to one school or another.

Daniel Walseki – Elm Street, Derby. Commended both Boards for coming together and working on a united front.

Chantel Gerkins – 65 Hillcrest Ave., Derby. Questioned the Tax Board with revenue from previous larger developments? Asked why the recent large developments have not had any effect on lowering the tax base and mill rate in Derby.

She also made mention that she supports the 6-8 Middle School with the addition at Bradley School. And would encourage this so as to support a full day kindergarten program City wide.

Kim Kreiger – General Wooster Rd., Derby. Thanked both Boards for coming together in a united effort for the good of the children of Derby.

Leo Mascoto – 34 Lewis Street, Derby. Came in support for the decision for the school referendum for the good of the children of Derby.

Martin Hubbard, Chairman Derby Board of Education – Hawthorne Ave., Derby. Read a letter to the members of both boards regarding the importance of their decision and the effect it will have on the overall education in the Derby school system and the children of the City of Derby.

Gerald Narowski – Jeanetti Dr., Derby. Spoke in support of the referendum with regards to improving the quality of education for the children of Derby.

Cathy Slowik – 60 Chestnut Dr., Derby. Spoke in favor of the pending referendum regarding the Derby school system.

Sharon Ronaldo – DHS Teacher, Non-resident. Spoke as a teacher in the Derby with over 33 years of service. She stated that she has co-taught in various classrooms and she herself sees a need for this up and coming referendum. She stated that the City and spirit of the City of Derby needs to present a statement, "How can we as a City address the education system?" She encouraged board members to think of the children in the City of Derby.

Mr. Petrillo – Jeanetti Dr., Derby. Stated that as we wait to make a decision the costs of material and labor over time just keeps increasing. He stated the previous costs associated with the last proposal and the current costs, stating the substantial rise.

Public Portion Closed.

Mayor Staffieri referred to Philip Robertson, Chief Administrator for an explanation for the request of the transferring of funds from Downtown Demo Relocation to Downtown Asbestos Abatement and Main Street Building Demolition.

Mr. Robertson stated that at the time the project was initially started the last two buildings had not been acquired by the City. Since that time the buildings have been obtained by the City and therefore the transfer is necessary to complete this phase of the demolition (Derby Billiards).

- **Motion to transfer \$90,040.35 from 8200-380-380 to 8200-440-0448 and \$146,465.00 from 8200-380-380 into 8200-470-478.
Board of Apportionment and Taxation only.**

Discussion on the motion if the total cost includes removal by Julia Romano to Mr. Robertson. Answer was yes.

Motion by Robert Bell. **Second** by Carolyn Duhaime. **All in Favor**. Motion Passes.

- **Review of all information with presentation, discussion and review of consideration on one (1) or more Resolutions Approving Appropriations and Borrowing Authorizations for School Projects. Establishing the Particulars of Referendum Votes on such Resolutions and Reviewing the Preparation and Distribution of Explanatory Texts in Connection with such --Referendum Votes. Action if Necessary.**

Mr. Dennis Rioux was present from DeCarlo & Doll to answer any questions that either board may have. DeCarlo & Doll presented board members with an Option Summary for both the Derby Middle School and the Stand-Alone Building. All information will be filed with the minutes from this meeting.

Mr. Domurad asked what the walls would be made of. Mr. Rioux stated that some block and some gypsum board with a life expectancy and durability of 50 plus years.

The next question came from Mr. Martino regarding staffing. Board members were referred to a handout from Dr. Robinson at a previous meeting.

Keith McLiverty made the next presentation of the **City of Derby Mill Impact Analysis as of January 7, 2007**. Mr. McLiverty placed all options in his report **(1A)** Grades 7,8 and an addition at Bradley School, **(1B)** Grades 7, 8 and an addition at Bradley School, **(1C)** Grades 7, 8 and an addition at Bradley School, **(1B and 1C)** Grades 7, 8 and an addition at Bradley School, and **(2)** Grades 6, 7, and 8 no addition at Bradley School. A full text of the report will be filed with the minutes from this meeting.

After discussion a motion was brought before both boards for a Roll Call Vote.

- **Motion for two options (1) Resolution Appropriating Funding for 6-8 Grades to be located at the Derby High School site and (2) Resolution Appropriating Funding for 7th and 8th with a two classroom addition at Bradley School.**

Motion by Ken Hughes. **Second** by Tony Szewczyk.

Discussion on the Motion:

Mr. Sill likes the 6-8 option and would like to see only one question on the ballot.

Mr. Hughes likes the option of two questions with a Y/N for the 6-8 question and if the question should fail then would you (voter) prefer option 2,

Mr. Devonshuk stated that with 30 years and no new schools it is time. He supports a 6-8, option #1 as the key question with option #2 as the second.

Board of Aldermen:

Ken Hughes	Yes	
Anthony Szewczyk	Yes	
Matthew DeBarbieri	No	
Beverly Moran	Yes	
James Benanto	Yes	
Ronald Sill	Yes	
Joseph Bomba	Yes	
Scott Boulton	Yes	
Dennis Devonshuk	Yes	Total 8 Yes 1 No

Tax Board: **No Vote at this time.**

Robert Bell
Frank Lazowski
Christopher Carloni
Henry Domurad
Carolyn Duhaime
Julia Romano
Martin Martino
Robert Scarduzio

Vote by Roll Call Members of the Board of Aldermen a Total of 8 YES one NO.

Motion Passes.

- **Motion to Adjourn at 9:08 PM.**

Motion by Ron Sill. **Second** by Joseph Bomba. **All in Favor.** Motion Passes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura A. Wabno
Recording Secretary